

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/RA:WLGALLAGHER/NIDA:RRETKA

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

UNCLAS STATE 236108

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, HK, TH, SN

SUBJECT: VISIT BY NIDA OFFICIAL, ROBERT L. RETKA

1. MR. ROBERT L. RETKA OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DRUG ABUSE (NIDA) PLANS TO VISIT HONG KONG, BANGKOK, AND SINGAPORE IN OCTOBER. MR. RETKA IS A PUBLIC HEALTH ANALYST IN THE FORECASTING BRANCH OF NIDA'S DIVISION OF RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, WITH FUNCTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE ASSESSMENT OF THE INCIDENCE AND PREVALENCE OF DRUG ABUSE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF METHODS TO MONITOR DRUG ABUSE TRENDS.

2. THE MAIN FOCUS OF MR. RETKA'S VISIT WILL BE IN THAILAND. HE WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH THAI OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN DRUG ABUSE ENFORCEMENT AND TREATMENT TO ANALYZE AVAILABLE INDICATOR DATA (ARRESTS, HEPATITIS, PRICE/PURITY, TREATMENT, ETC.) AND TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE APPROACHES TO MONITORING SUCH DATA ON A REGULAR BASIS. MR. RETKA ALSO HOPES TO DISCUSS THE BANGKOK METROPOLITAN HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S RECENT PROPOSAL FOR AN OUTPATIENT DETOXIFICATION TREATMENT

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PROGRAM WITH THE EMBASSY AND RTG HEALTH OFFICIALS. DR.

DUPONT, NIDA'S DIRECTOR, HAS DESIGNATED MR. RETKA AS NIDA'S LIAISON OFFICER FOR THIS PROJECT. MR. RETKA IS FLUENT IN THAI.

3. IN HONG KONG MR. RETKA WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS BENT WERBELL'S CONSULTANT REPORT ON THE CENTRAL REGISTRY FOR DRUG ADDICTS TO LEARN THE REACTION OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT TO THE REPORT'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

4. MR. RETKA PLANS TO GATHER INFORMATION IN SINGAPORE, BANGKOK, AND HONG KONG TO DETERMINE NEED FOR AND FEASIBILITY OF A SEMINAR PROGRAM TO HELP POLICY MAKERS AND TECHNICIANS IMPROVE THE CURRENT KNOWLEDGE BASE. INFORMATION OBTAINED ABOUT ISSUES, INDIVIDUALS, LEVELS OF INTEREST, AND LOCATION WILL BE HELPFUL IN FUTURE PLANNING.

5. IN HONG KONG ON OCT. 5-6, MR. RETKA WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH MR. E.I.LEE, COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, AND SIR ALBERT RODRIGUES, CHAIRMAN OF THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS. IN ADDITION, HE WOULD LIKE TO VISIT THE HKG CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TO REVIEW DEMOGRAPHIC DATA OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTING SYSTEMS.

6. IN SINGAPORE, ON OCTOBER 25-26, MR. RETKA WISHES TO MEET WITH MR. JOHN HANEM, DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL NARCOTICS BUREAU, AND OFFICIALS OF THE SINGAPORE ANTI-NARCOTICS ASSOCIATION. HE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO VISIT THE DRUG DEPENDENCE CLINIC OF THE OUTRAM GENERAL HOSPITAL, THE MAXWELL ROAD OUTPATIENT CLINIC, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS AND THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH TO DISCUSS AVAILABILITY OF INDICATOR DATA AND VITAL STATISTICS REPORTING SYSTEMS.

7. MR. RETKA WILL SPEND OCT. 5-24 IN THAILAND. HE HOPES TO HAVE INDEPTH DISCUSSIONS WITH A NUMBER OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND RTG ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS DURING THIS TIME. MR. RETKA WISHES TO DISCUSS HIS THAI ITINERARY WITH THE EMBASSY AFTER ARRIVAL SO THAT A SERIES OF APPOINTMENTS CAN BE WORKED OUT. HOWEVER, MR. RETKA WOULD LIKE TO CALL ON I.M. G. WILLIAMS OF WHO, MAJOR GENERAL POW SARASIN, DR. AKHOM UNCLASSIFIED

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SORNSURACHAT, SECT'Y TO PRIMIN FOR DRUG ABUSE MATTERS, DRS. CHEK DHANASIRI AND SAMRANCHITT PRADIPASENA OF THE BANGKOK METROPOLITAN HEALTH DEPARTMENT, DR. AROON SHOWANASI OF THE PRAMONGKUTLAO ARMY HOSPITAL, DR. VICHAI POSHYACHINDA OF THE CHULALONGKORN UNIVERSITY HEALTH RESEARCH INSTITUTE, AND DR. SAMSONG KANCHANAHUTA OF THE THANYARACK HOSPITAL DURING HIS FIRST WEEK. MR. RETKA HAS MET SOME OF THESE OFFICIALS PREVIOUSLY.

9. MR. RETKA'S FLIGHT SCHEDULES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

OCTOBER 3 - ARRIVE HONG KONG AT 2135 VIA PANAM 1  
FROM SAN FRANCISCO

OCTOBER 5 - DEPART HONG KONG AT 1215 VIA CHINA AIR  
LINES 803, ARRIVING BANGKOK 1400

OCTOBER 24 - DEPART BANGKOK AT 1315 VIA SINGAPORE  
AIRLINES 641, ARRIVING SINGAPORE 1550

OCTOBER 27 - DEPART SINGAPORE AT 1245 VIA PANAM 842  
FOR SAN FRANCISCO.

10. HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE SEPARATELY. ROBINSON

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BANGKOK  
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